

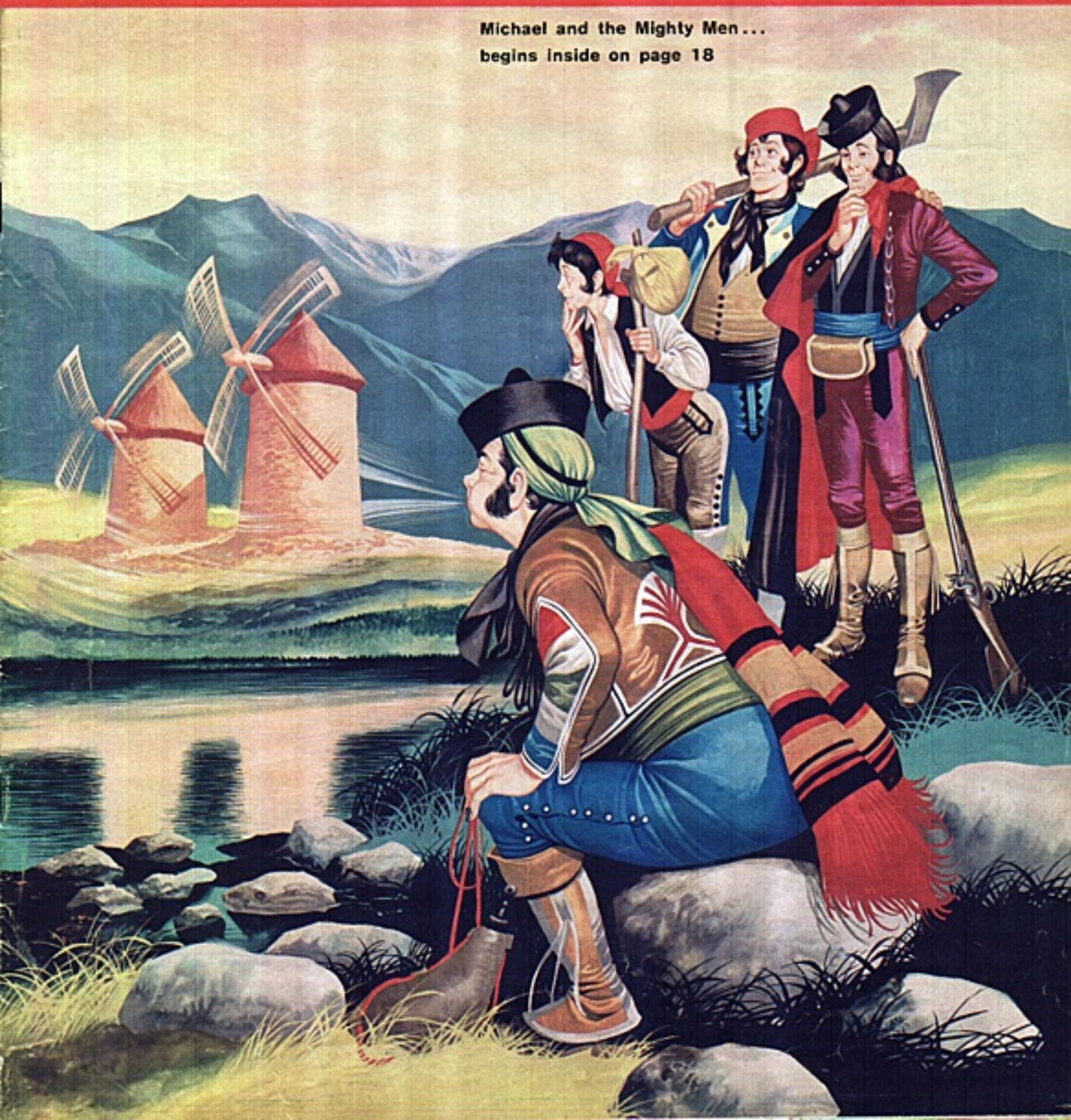
# Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Michael and the Mighty Men...  
begins inside on page 18





# ALICE in WONDERLAND

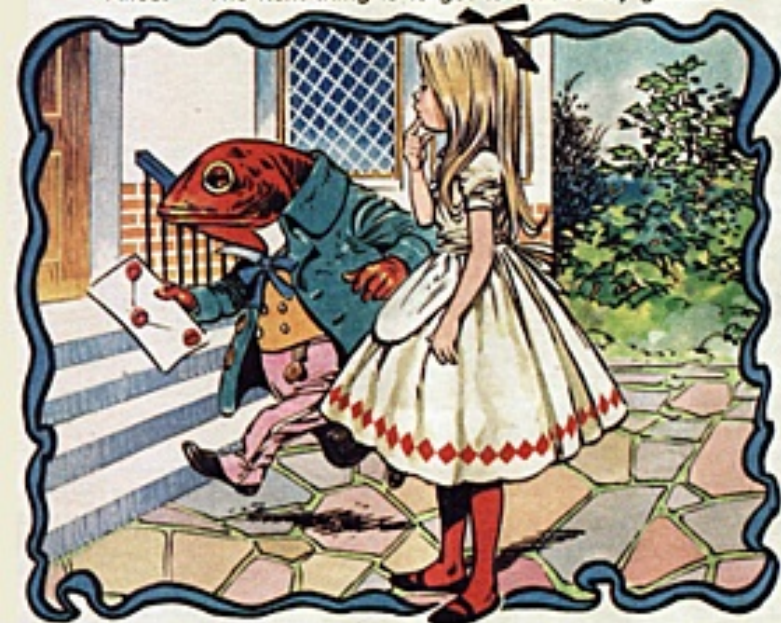


1. Poor Alice! She had grown such a long neck. After a while she remembered she still had the other piece of mushroom in her hand and she set to work to nibble it.



2. Soon she brought herself down to her usual height. At first it felt quite strange. "How puzzling all these changes are," thought Alice. "The next thing is to get to that lovely garden."

3. As Alice said this, she suddenly came upon an open space with a splendid house in it. "Who can live there, I wonder?" she asked herself. "I'll find out the way to the garden."



4. For a moment she paused at the front door, and suddenly a footman in livery ran out of the wood. (Alice considered him to be a footman by the way he was dressed, but by the way he looked she would have called him a fish.) Hurrying past Alice without so much as by-your-leave or anything like that, the fish-faced footman rapped loudly on the door.



5. It was opened by another footman with a round face and eyes like a frog. The Fish-Footman produced a letter and he handed it over to the other, saying in solemn tones, "For the Duchess. An invitation from the Queen to play croquet." The Frog-Footman repeated in the same solemn tone, only changing the words a little, "From the Queen. An invitation for the Duchess to croquet."





6. Then both the footmen bowed low and Alice laughed so much at this that she just had to run back into the wood for fear of their hearing her. "It wouldn't do to appear rude," she thought to herself, though she laughed until the tears began to come into her eyes. "I wonder why the Queen wants the Duchess to go and play a croquet game?"



7. When she had stopped laughing, Alice returned to the house. The Fish-Footman was gone and the frog-faced one was sitting on the ground, staring stupidly into the sky.



8. "Please," said Alice. "How am I to get in?" At this moment the door of the house opened and a large plate came skimming out, straight at the head of the Frog-Footman. It bounced off the end of his nose and broke into pieces.



9. A clatter and noises of things breaking came from inside the house. Alice did not know what to make of it, but she decided to go inside.



10. She peeped into a kitchen, full of smoke from one end to the other. The Duchess was sitting on a stool, nursing a baby. The cook was stirring a pot, which seemed to be full of soup. "Oh, there's much too much pepper in it," thought Alice.



11. Then suddenly the cook started to throw everything within reach at the Duchess and the baby! (More next week.)

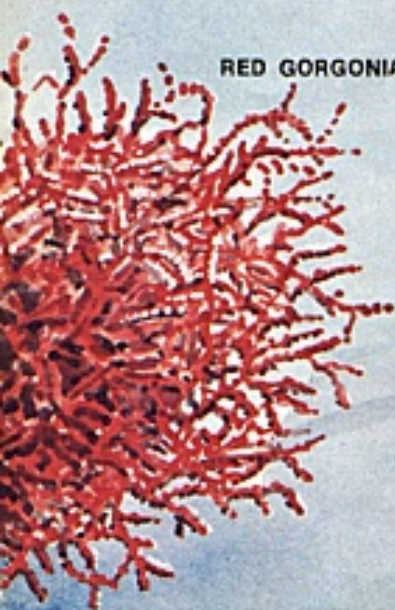


# All Sorts of Creatures

*In our world there is much more sea than land, and thanks to brave explorers who have gone down into the depths of the oceans, we know quite a lot about the creatures which live there. On these two pages we can show you just a few of the inhabitants of the underwater world, which contains all sorts of wonderful creatures and living things.*



MORAY EEL



RED GORGONIANS



GROUPE FISH



OCTOPUS



CAT FISH



PUFFER FISH

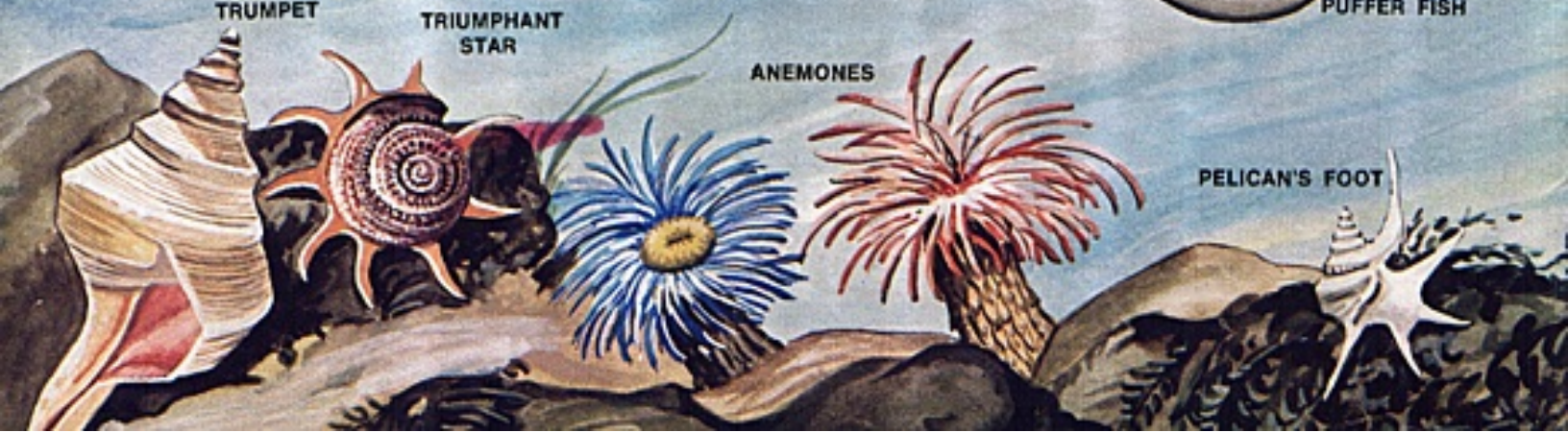


AUSTRALIAN  
TRUMPET

TRIUMPHANT  
STAR

ANEMONES

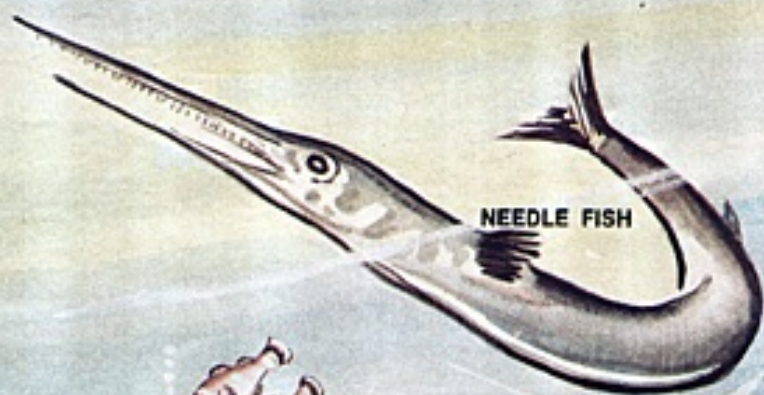
PELICAN'S FOOT





# of the Ocean

PORTUGUESE MAN-OF-WAR



NEEDLE FISH



DAMSEL FISH



DEEP SEA ANGLER



TRIGGER FISH

CORALS



SCORPION FISH

EUROPEAN VENUS CLAM



COWRIE



BRITTLE STARS







# BRER RABBIT

This week: Why Brer Possum loves peace.

ONE day, when the apples were ripe, Brer Possum and Brer Coon decided they would go out the next night and look for some nice ripe apples to eat.

That evening, Brer Possum called for Brer Coon, as they had arranged and off they went down the road to see if they could see any apples.

Now Brer Rabbit happened to overhear them and it just happened that Brer Rabbit was doing much the same thing himself, only he was taking a late stroll looking for carrots to eat and he knew exactly where to find them—in Mr. Man's garden.

"Come along with me," he said to Brer Possum and Brer Coon. "I know where you can find some very fine apples."

So the three animals went down the road together.

"We're nearly there, now," said Brer Rabbit. "We'd better go quietly, I think, because we don't want to disturb Mr. Man's dog."

"H'm, suppose he does hear us and attacks us," said Brer Coon. "What are you going to do if he does, Brer Possum?"

"Do, Brer Coon?" asked Brer Possum, giving a low kind of chuckle. "Why if he comes, I'm going to stand by you, of course. But what will you do, Brer Coon?"

"Me? Why if he attacks me, I'll twist his tail for him, to be sure," replied Brer Coon.

The three animals crept into Mr. Man's garden. Brer Coon and Brer Possum made their way to the apple tree and Brer Rabbit went to the carrot patch. He was so busy digging and scraping and chewing the carrots he was getting up, that he

forgot all about keeping his eyes and ears open and before he knew what was happening, he heard a kind of snuffling behind him and he felt hot breath on the back of his neck and then he turned round—and he looked straight into a pair of red eyes, that were staring down at him.

"Got you, you thief," growled Mr. Dog. "You won't do any more thieving when I've finished with you."

"Oh, it's no good catching me, Mr. Dog," Brer Rabbit said. "It's not me you want. If you waste your time on me, Brer Coon and Brer Possum, who are here as well, will get away with all the rest of the things in Mr. Man's garden. But if you let me go, why I'll creep quietly away and you can go after them."

Mr. Dog thought about this. "Brer Coon and Brer Possum, eh?" he growled.



"Well you can go this time, but woe betide you if I ever see you here again."

Of course, when he heard that, Brer Rabbit was off through a hole in the fence, just as fast as he could go, while Mr. Dog went racing away after Brer Coon and Brer Possum.

Sure enough, he soon found them in the garden.

Now as soon as Mr. Dog touched Brer Possum, he began to grin from ear to ear and then he rolled over as if he were dead.

Then Mr. Dog made for Brer Coon, but Brer Coon was a different character altogether. He was used to that sort of thing and he could give a good account of himself in a rough fight any day. Mr. Dog soon realised that he had taken on more than he had bargained for when he attacked Brer Coon, because Brer Coon just about wiped the floor with him. The minute he saw an opportunity, Mr. Dog got out of Brer Coon's clutches and ran away.

Then Brer Coon licked himself into shape smoothed down his fur and he went off, too, but Brer Possum, he just lay there as if he were dead. After a time, he lifted himself up carefully and looked

all around and when he saw that the coast was clear he scrambled to his feet and off he went as well.

For some time afterwards, Brer Possum did not see anything of Brer Coon, but one day he happened to see him coming along the road. "How do you do," said Brer Possum, in a most friendly way, but Brer Coon just refused to answer.

Brer Possum thought that it was a bit rude of Brer Coon not to reply and decided to tackle him about it. After all, they had always been such good friends.

"Why won't you pass the time of day with me, Brer Coon?" asked Brer Possum.

Brer Coon looked down his nose. "I'm not having anything to do with folks who lie on the ground and pretend to be dead when there's a fight going on," he replied.

"Why, Brer Coon, you don't think I was afraid, do you?" asked Brer Possum, in surprise. "Why I knew you could lick Mr. Dog easily, if I didn't do it for you. I wasn't afraid, because there was nothing to be afraid of. As for lying on the ground, I was watching you shake that dog until his teeth rattled and I'd have got up and helped you, if you'd needed any help."

"A likely story," said Brer Coon. "Why

Mr. Dog only touched you and you rolled over on the ground as though you were dead."

"Of course I did, Brer Coon," replied Brer Possum. "I was going to explain to you why I did it, but you went away. I'm as good at fighting as the next man, Brer Coon. I don't mind fighting, but I'm a very ticklish fellow and if there's one thing I can't stand it's tickling. Fight me and I won't mind, but tickle me and I laugh until I lose the use of my limbs. When Mr. Dog put his nose against my ribs, why, I thought I should die of laughing, which was a mercy for Mr. Dog, because if I hadn't laughed so much I would have gobbled him all up, for sure."

Brer Coon didn't know whether to believe this or not and he never felt quite the same about Brer Possum from that time, but one thing is certainly true. To this day, if anyone touches Brer Possum in the ribs, he rolls over and laughs fit to burst and nothing can stop him—even if he knows he's going to get a beating for it.

Another merry tale of Brer Rabbit and his friends next week.





# Well, Fancy That!

In the Northern part of Russia which is called Siberia there are thick forests of trees—and many of the trees are the result of a bird's bad memory. The Siberian Jay gathers seeds and buries them in the snow as a food-store for itself. But then it forgets where it has hidden most of them, so the seeds grow up and become trees.



One of the strangest of snakes is the American Sidewinder, which travels sideways as it moves across the loose sand.



Some years ago, a clever man living in Singapore invented a new kind of medicine which he called Tiger Balm. It was believed that Tiger Balm could cure all sorts of illness so people rushed to buy it and the Singapore man made so much money that he did not know what to do with it all. So he decided to spend most of it on making a park full of buildings and statues of all kinds to amuse people who came to visit it. The builders and statue-makers were told to do just as they liked, and the owner was told that when work stopped he would die. He did die, but the work still goes on and the picture shows you just a few of the quaint statues in the Tiger Balm park.





This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story turn to page 16 and try to answer some questions about it.

## *The First Man to Fly*

We all know that airliners travel to all parts of the world. There are big Jumbo jets which can carry over 300 passengers, and new types of aircraft which are going to travel at twice the speed of sound.

All this has happened in a very short space of time—but the idea of being able to soar up into the sky like a bird has been in the minds of men for ages. Men made the mistake of trying to copy the birds by trying to fly with wings which flapped up and down. Birds are able to fly because their bones are light in weight and they have special strong muscles to beat their wings up and down.

Human bodies are much too heavy to be lifted off the ground by flapping wings.

A little more than a hundred years ago, in 1861, a German engineer by the name of Otto Lilienthal made a sort of glider with fixed wings. He had seen how a kite would keep up in the air when lifted by the wind, and he worked on his "glider" for two years to make it as perfect as he could.

Then on a great day in 1863 he was able to make a glider flight of about 300 yards at a height of 100 feet down a hill.

Otto Lilienthal was watched by a cheering crowd as he sailed through the air and landed

safely. It could be said that he was the first man to really fly.

However, he was keen to make even longer flights so built himself a new glider which had two wings, and which he could guide by movements of his body.

This biplane glider worked well for Otto Lilienthal and there were always crowds to watch him when he made a flight. But, alas, he was making a demonstration flight in Berlin in the year 1896 when something went wrong. Otto Lilienthal's glider came crashing to the ground and the unlucky first man to fly was killed.





# Great Rivers of the World

## The Lower DANUBE

Last week we told you about the upper part of the great River Danube, showing some of the countries it passed through and the wild-life along its banks. Now we come to the Lower Danube where it enters Yugoslavia. Here, most towns have market-places to which the peasants bring their produce to sell. Horses and carts are a common sight and the women dress in colourful aprons and scarves.



On flows the river into Bulgaria, another peaceful and pleasant land. In many parts of it you will detect the lovely scent of roses in the air. One of the chief exports of Bulgaria is "attar of roses," used in the manufacture of perfume. Millions of roses are grown for this purpose. Their petals are crushed and the perfume exported.



To reach the end of its journey, where it pours into the Black Sea, the River Danube passes through Rumania. Here on the banks great areas of Flax grow and it is gathered by men using punts. Flax is used in the making of linen cloth.







Here are some of the things to be seen on a trip down the Lower Danube. On the left is a **Silverstripe** butterfly, which likes to be among thistles.

This brightly-coloured creature is called a **Fire Salamander**. It lives mainly on land and keeps out of sight during daylight, except after heavy rain. The female Fire Salamander goes into the water of the river to have her babies.

The **Diced Water-snake** is related to Grass snakes. It is almost always found near water, and can swim well. Below is a **Catfish**, which can grow up to a length of 15 feet or more. It has no scales like other fish. Also shown is a fish called a **Ziege**.



# Kind-hearted Tanya



1. Once an old miser lived with his niece, Tanya, in a broken-down hut. Although he was really very rich the old miser would not spend any money on clothes and good food and the two lived very miserably. Poor Tanya had to work hard collecting firewood for her uncle and she never had any fun like other more lucky girls.

2. One Winter's day Tanya came upon a ragged old woman shivering with cold. "You poor thing," she said, "take my cloak. It will protect you from the bitter wind." And she handed her worn cloak to the woman. "Thank you, my dear," she said. "Your kindness will be rewarded."



3. Then the old woman, who was really a fairy, vanished—cloak and all. Sure enough Tanya was quickly rewarded, for a noble young Prince rode by and saw her. "You look so cold," he said. "Come, sit on my horse and my cloak will keep you warm."

4. By the time Tanya had been carried to her uncle's home she had fallen in love with the Prince, and he with her. What is more, as soon as he saw where she lived he invited her to his father's palace to live there until they married. Tanya agreed very happily.





5. "Ah," thought her crafty old uncle, "if Tanya can win herself a Prince and a palace just for giving up her shabby old cloak, what might I gain for a rich new cloak?" So he hurried to the nearby town and, though it almost broke his heart to spend some of his money, he bought himself a fine velvet cloak, decorated with gold.



6. Following the path Tanya had taken he saw the old woman and greeted her in a grand manner. "Here, good woman, take my cloak," he said. "Thank you, sir," said the fairy, but as her fingers took hold of the splendid cloak it fell into rags and dust at their feet. "Oh, what has happened to it?" gasped the miser in fright.



7. "Your gift has turned to dust, because you gave it selfishly for gain," said the fairy sternly. "Your niece gave hers with all the kindness of her warm heart, and that is why she gained reward." Sad, the miser went home, knowing this was the truth.



8. In the palace where the Prince lived, Tanya was so happy and kind-hearted that everybody loved her, and there was rejoicing on the day she married the Prince. Her uncle, the miser, came to the wedding, too. He had learned his lesson and was never mean again.





## Beautiful Paintings

The subject of this week's Beautiful Painting is very simple. Two small girls have seen a delicious bunch of grapes growing on a vine outside the window of their home. They are both

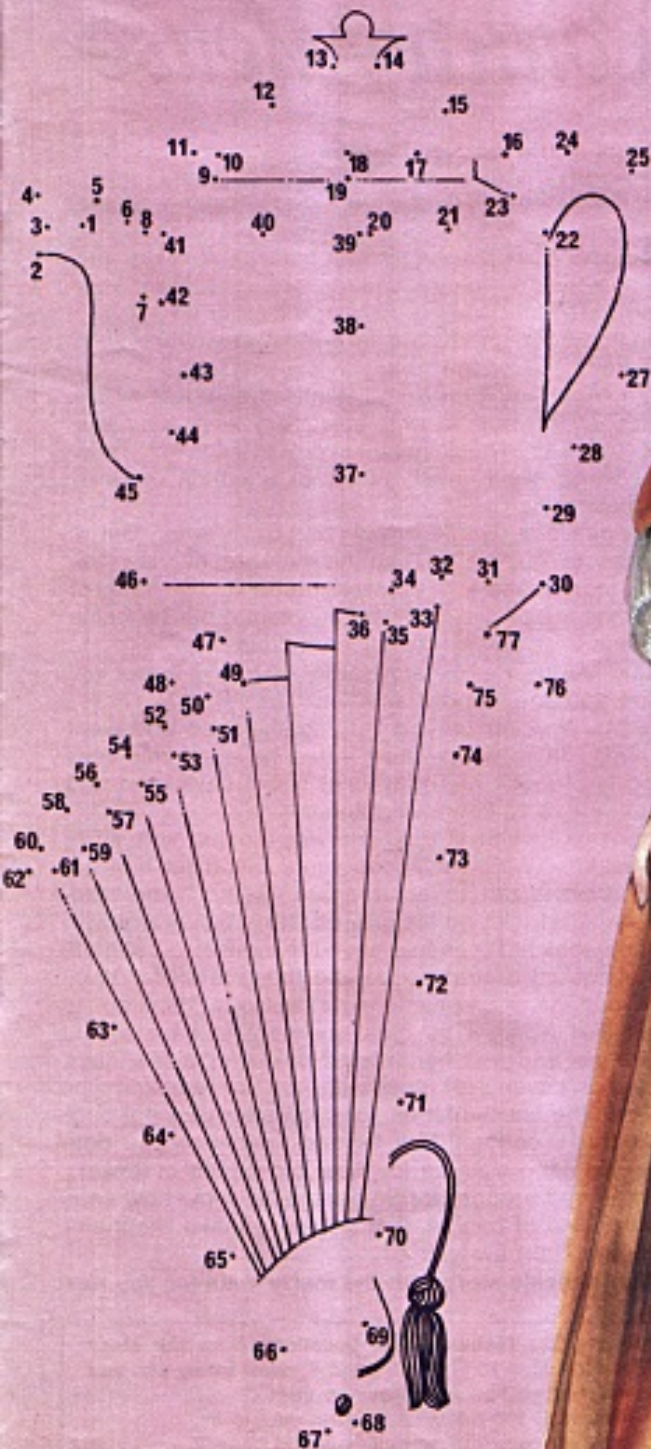
looking longingly at the juicy fruit which is out of their reach, and are perhaps thinking of a way to reach the grapes. The picture is called "Children at the Window", by George Kersting.



# Queen Anne

The last of the Stuart rulers of England, Queen Anne reigned for 12 years from 1702 to 1714. She was given the name of Good Queen Anne, though she was really a dull and obstinate woman. She tried hard to rule well, but history books tell us that there was "only one person in the Kingdom more stupid than she—and that was her husband, Prince George of Denmark." Anne was the daughter of King James the Second.

By joining the dots of the puzzle below from Number 1 to Number 77, you will draw a teapot and fan of Queen Anne's time.







# The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

This week: Winifred, Bertie and Nigel to the rescue.

STEPHANIE, the smart town mouse, had been out for a drive with her boy-friend, Nigel, in his car, when the car broke down. Nigel couldn't get it started again and they were right out in the country, with not a house or a garage in sight, so Stephanie set off to see if she could find anyone who might help, while Nigel carried on trying to repair the car.

Stephanie didn't find anyone, but she did find a hide-out in the woods, used by a naughty little mouse called Rex the Wrecker, and his friends. She fell right into an animal trap they had made and she couldn't get out again because she had hurt her ankle.

Nigel didn't notice how long Stephanie had been away, because he was busy trying to find out what was wrong with his car.

He was so busy that he didn't notice a mouse coming along on a bicycle, until he suddenly heard a voice say, "Fancy seeing you here Nigel. Can I give you a hand?"

Nigel crawled out from under the car and stared at the mouse on the bicycle. "Bertie," he cried, "I am glad to see you. Just the person I need."

Bertie was Winifred's boy-friend and Winifred was Stephanie's cousin. Bertie worked on a farm and knew all about the insides of tractor engines.

"Don't worry, I'll soon have it going again, Nigel," he said.

"Try it now, Nigel," Bertie called some time later, and to Nigel's delight the car started at once.

"Where's Stephanie?" asked Bertie. "Isn't she with you?"

Nigel frowned. "That's funny," he said. "I thought she must have met you and sent you here."

Bertie shook his head. "Perhaps she's at Winifred's cottage."

"Well, the best thing we can do is to go there and see," said Nigel.

But Winifred hadn't seen Stephanie, either.

"Perhaps she's lost," said Winifred. "We'll all go and look for her."

They all set off towards the woods, calling Stephanie's name loudly.

Of course, poor Stephanie was quite near really and when she heard voices calling her, she was very pleased indeed.

"Yoo, hoo-o-o," she called in a most unladylike way. "I'm here."

When Nigel and Bertie and Winifred saw just where she was, at the bottom of a hole, they were very surprised indeed. Nigel jumped down into the hole. "Don't worry, we'll have you out in a minute or two," he said soothingly.

As Nigel and Bertie lifted Stephanie out, Bertie happened to glance up and he thought he saw the bushes move nearby. He crept round to the back of the bushes, made a sudden pounce—and out he came again with a wriggling, struggling mouse.

"Now, young Rex," said Bertie. "You'd better tell us what you know about all this."

Rex the Wrecker looked very shamefaced and went very pink. In a rather small voice he explained how he and his friends had played at being cave men and had dug a trap to catch wild animals.

Stephanie looked at Rex. He was looking very sorry for himself. "Well, I suppose you'd better let him go, if he promises not to do it again, Bertie," she said, severely. Bertie let go his grip on Rex's collar and with a grateful look at Stephanie, the little mouse scuttled off.

Nigel picked Stephanie up and they set off for Winifred's cottage. Stephanie was secretly thinking to herself that it might be quite pleasant to have to put her feet up and rest her twisted ankle for a few days.

She didn't even stay cross with Rex the Wrecker, who had been the cause of it all, for soon after they got back to Winifred's cottage, Rex tapped timidly on the door and in his hand was the loveliest big bunch of flowers, which he had brought for Stephanie, to show how sorry he was. And of course, that began to make Stephanie feel better right away.

Another chuckle story with the merry mice for you next week.

Here are the Memory Test questions from the story "The First Man to Fly" on page 9. How many can you answer before you look back to check?

1. What was the name of the first man to fly?
2. In which year did he build his first glider?
3. In which year was he killed and where did it happen?







Mendoza



# Michael and the Mighty Men



1. Once upon a time there was a young man named Michael, who was very poor. He did not know what to do to make a living, but he knew that riches would never come to him if he stayed in one place, so one day he bravely set out to explore the world in the hope of making his fortune. For a week or so he wandered about alone and saw nothing exciting until he entered a thick forest.

2. There, he was amazed to see a woodcutter who was chopping down several big trees with just one blow of his axe. Michael had never seen such strength before. "You are a mighty man, my friend," he said. "With strength such as yours you should join me and we will seek good fortune together. What do you say to that?" "I'll willingly have a try," answered the woodsman.



3. So Michael and the woodsman wandered away together, keeping their eyes open for anything to help them in their search for riches. Soon they came upon a hunter, taking aim with his gun.



4. The hunter fired and, wonder of wonders, his shot killed a wasp which was annoying a horse in a field a long way off. It was a marvellous shot and Michael asked the hunter to join them.





5. With two mighty men as his companions, Michael felt sure that good fortune would be theirs sooner or later. They went on their journey together in good spirits and, a little later, they passed close to some windmills. Now the strange part was that the sails of these windmills were spinning around at a terrific speed, although there was not a breath of wind to turn them.



7. The man who could blow with such mighty force was only too willing, so now there were four of them to continue the journey. Next, they met a tall, thin man who had both his ankles tied together with rope. "I am such a fast runner that I dare not have my legs free, or I would be carried miles away," he said.

Isn't this exciting? More of Michael and his mighty friends next week.



6. "How can such a thing be happening?" asked Michael, and all three of them were greatly puzzled until they walked on and saw a man seated on a rock. He was facing the windmills and blowing gently with his mouth, making the sails whirl round at great speed. "My friend, that is marvellous," Michael said. "With such a gift you must join us in our search for riches."



8. Once again this man was invited to join the party. Farther on still, they met a man who wore his hat pulled down over his right ear. "Why do you wear your hat like that?" asked Michael. "I have to," replied the man. "If I uncovered my right ear, I would send out a stream of air cold enough to freeze the world."





# *The* **WISE OLD OWL** Knows all the answers

Here is the Wise Old Owl again to answer some of your puzzling questions.



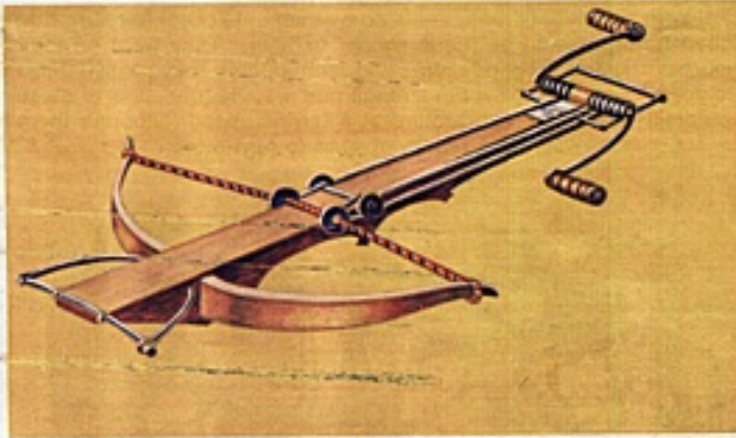
## 1. Which animal is the most intelligent?

"Dogs, horses, elephants, cats and chimpanzees are known to behave in a very intelligent manner, but many people believe that the animal which has the greatest sense of all is the dolphin. It can be taught to perform all kinds of tricks, which it learns quicker than most other animals."



## 2. Is there such a thing as a sea dragon?

"Yes. The name Sea Dragon is given to a strange kind of fish, found in warm seas. It has a head, body and tail like a fairy-story dragon, but is not, of course, so large and fierce."



## 3. When were crossbows first used?

"The crossbow was in use about a thousand years ago and lasted as a weapon until about 1807, when the Poles were defending their land against Napoleon. It shot a bolt, or arrow, a long way."



## 4. How high can a balloon go?

"With a man in its basket, the highest a balloon has risen is just over 23 miles. But an unmanned balloon, specially released from a rocket above Florida, soared to a height of 922 miles."



## 5. Which animal has the biggest antlers?

"The answer is the elk, or moose as it is called in Northern America. When fully-grown, an elk's antlers have a spread of about six feet and grow to this size in only three months."